



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
10 W. JACKSON BLVD.  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Married Couple from Mexico Receive Highest Sentence for Immigration Document Fraud**

**CHICAGO, Oct. 17** - A married couple from Mexico were sentenced on October 15, 2001 for the production and sale of counterfeit identification cards in Chicago. This announcement was jointly made by Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, together with Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U. S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

Arturo Noriega, 38, was sentenced to 71 months incarceration and Vianey Noriega, 39, was sentenced to 10 months incarceration by U.S. District Court Judge Robert W. Gettleman. This is the highest sentence for document fraud in INS Chicago history.

INS arrested this husband-and-wife team October 10, 2000 for the production, sale and transfer of fraudulent identification documents. A search was conducted at their home at 2239 N. Lorel Avenue in Chicago, which resulted in the confiscation of counterfeit documents, as well as equipment used to manufacture them. Among the documents confiscated were alien registration cards and social security cards.

On May 9, 2001 Arturo and Vianey Noriega pleaded guilty to manufacturing and selling more than 100 sets of counterfeit documents. Counterfeit documents sell on the street for between \$80 and \$150 per set, which includes a false "green card" or alien registration card, and a false social security card. Fraudulent documents are manufactured and sold to illegal aliens who use these cards to obtain employment and conceal their identity.

Since 1998, INS agents in Chicago have confiscated approximately 70,000 counterfeit documents.

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